

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053944

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: OVIP: COMAN, GEN. ION; MILI PFOR RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF COMAN TO VISIT US

1. USNATO IS AUTHORIZED TO INFORM NATO PERMREPS OF PENDING VISIT OF LT. GEN. ION COMAN, FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES. GEN. COMAN WILL PAY AN OFFICIAL PROTOCOL VISIT TO THE US FROM MARCH 11-19 AS THE GUEST OF GENERAL FREDERICK C. WEYAND, CHIEF OF STAFF, US ARMY. GEN. COMAN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MAJOR GENERAL OF ENGINEERS CONSTANTIN M. CIOROIANU, CHIEF, TECHNICAL DIRECTORATE IN THE MOND, AND BY CAPTAIN 2ND RANK NECULAI PADURARIU (NAVY), OF ROMANIAN FOREIGN LIAISON SECTION.

2. GENERAL COMAN'S ITINERARY WILL PARALLEL THAT FOR OTHER VISITING CHIEFS OF STAFF. IT WILL INCLUDE ORIENTATION VISITS TO FT. SILL, FT. HOOD, FT. BENNING, CHARLESTON AFB AND NAVAL BASE; AND POPE AFB. ON
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PAGE 02 STATE 053944

MARCH 18-19 GENERAL COMAN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON. CALLS

ON THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND OTHER SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS ARE SCHEDULED, AS WELL AS AN HONORS CEREMONY AND THE LAYING OF A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER.

3. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT OF A SENIOR ROMANIAN MILITARY OFFICER TO THE US, AND ALSO THE FIRST

OFFICIAL VISIT OF AN OFFICER OF THIS RANK FROM ANY WARSAW PACT COUNTRY. AS SUCH, IT WILL ATTRACT SOME PRESS ATTENTION BUT IT IS OUR INTENT TO TREAT THE VISIT AS A ROUTINE PROTOCOL AFFAIR, AS INDEED IT IS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS CONTEXT THAT ROMANIAN MILITARY DELEGATIONS HAVE PAID A NUMBER OF VISITS TO NATO CAPITALS IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO, AND THAT THESE IN SOME INSTANCES HAVE BEEN RECIPROCATED; FOR EXAMPLE: IN MAY-JUNE, 1972 THE THEN ROMANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. GHEORGHE ION VISITED THE UK, AND GEN. SIR MICHAEL CARVER, CHIEF OF BRITISH GENERAL STAFF, RECIPROCATED IN MAY-JUNE 1973 WITH AN "UNOFFICIAL" VISIT TO BUCHAREST; GOR DEFENSE MINISTER IONITA PAID A VISIT TO PARIS IN NOVEMBER, 1974; AND VISITS OF THE ITALIAN AND ROMANIAN ARMY CHIEFS OF STAFF WERE ALSO EXCHANGED IN 1974.

4. AT GOR REQUEST AND IN ACCORD WITH ROMANIAN CUSTOM, NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT WILL BE MADE BY EITHER SIDE UNTIL MARCH 12; THE DAY AFTER GEN. COMAN'S DEPARTURE FOR THE US. INGERSOLL

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